



## Responses of Forest Ecosystems to Nitrogen Deposition

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Environmental legislation in countries around the world has led to notable declines in the atmospheric deposition of nitrogen (N), although most decreases relate to oxidized N, with reduced N increasing in many areas. Still, the deposition of N remains high in many regions globally. For areas where chronic atmospheric deposition of N has led to N saturation, excess N still chronically threatens the structure and function of ecosystems. Indeed, critical loads for N remain widely exceeded for many forests, leading to a variety of deleterious effects, all of which threaten the sustainability of impacted forests. It is likely that the recovery of N-impacted sites might require extended periods of time, especially in locations where base cations, such as  $\text{Ca}^{++}$ , have been depleted by accelerated  $\text{NO}_3$ -leaching. Thus, understanding the potential responses of forest ecosystems to N deposition remains essential. In this Special Issue of *Forests*, we explore on a global scale the multifaceted responses of forest ecosystems to both increases and decreases in N deposition, especially regarding plants and plant assemblages, as well as effects of N on forest biogeochemistry.





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